

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Collaborative Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976

Website: www.braintreecatholic.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Pastoral Staff: Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor
Rev. Shawn Carey, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education

Collaborative Office: Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

Mass Schedule: Saturday Evening – 5:30 PM
Sunday – 9:00 and 11:30 AM
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday – 12:30 to 2:00 PM
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

Sacrament of Baptism: First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.
Please call the Parish Office to register.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls: Please notify the Parish Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

Community Meetings: School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM
(Suspended due to Coronavirus)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 17, 2021

5:30PM Mary Hill Anniversary

Sunday, April 18, 2021

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

11:30AM Michael J. Richardi Anniversary

Monday, April 19, 2021

7:00AM

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

7:00AM

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

7:00AM Robert Clifford Memorial

Thursday, April 22, 2021

7:00AM

Friday, April 23, 2021

7:00AM Julia Zampine Memorial

Saturday, April 24, 2021

5:30PM Robert Mickiewicz Memorial

Sunday, April 25, 2021

9:00AM Lilla Candelieri Memorial

11:30AM Janet Riley Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:

Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT 87%.

If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office.

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 3,556.00
Offertory/Loose	\$ 894.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 2,403.33
Total Offertory	\$ 6,853.33

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!



Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." - Lk 24:45-46

Readings for the week of April 18, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
[1ab]/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and
8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/
Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/
Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/
Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
[12]/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28,
29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18





From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

During the Easter Season the first reading we hear at Mass is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. For a little background, Acts is a second volume of Luke's Gospel, written to a man named Theophilus in order to strengthen his faith and confidence in the fledgling church.

From Wednesday through Saturday, Easter week, we were presented with the story of the crippled man begging at the temple gate and its aftermath.

Peter and John were going to the temple for the 3 o'clock prayer. The crippled man, seeing them, hoped that they might throw a few coins his way and asked them for alms.

"Silver and gold, I have none," answered Peter, "But what I do have I give you." He took the man by the hand and helped him to his feet, which immediately became stronger and stronger. He would never have to beg again.

It was only natural then, that a crowd would gather. So, Peter and John began preaching the Good News regarding the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

This did not please the chief priests and so they came with the captain of the temple guard, and some Sadducees and arrested them, the same people who arrested Jesus and had him crucified. Unlike that Thursday night in the Garden of Gethsemane, they didn't run and hide. They stood their ground and rejoiced that they might suffer for the sake of Christ.

So, as I'm following the story last week, a particular line jumped out at me. It's from chapter 4, verse 13.

"Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, the leaders, elders, and Scribes were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus."

The first thing that struck me was the boldness of Peter and John. They spoke up preaching as the crowd gathered, not knowing how it would be accepted or if they might just be dismissed as lunatics

The next thing that struck me was the arrogance of the Leaders, Elders and Scribes. They were amazed, not so much because they healed a son of Israel, but that they were uneducated and ordinary men. Who do they think they are? In today's jargon we might say ignorant and insignificant.

Here's the million-dollar question. Why aren't we as bold? Why aren't we as outspoken as Peter, John and the others?

I think that we see ourselves as just ordinary people, uneducated, at least in the ways of faith. We put ourselves in the same box that the elders and leaders of Israel put Peter and John. We've put a cover on that box and a lock and chain around the whole thing.

For whatever reason, we've been led to believe that our job is simply to go to church and lead good lives. We think that preaching is to be left to the priest or the minister or to those with advanced degrees in theology.

Well, that's wrong! That doesn't come from God. It's not just the venue of the ordained, and the "educated" to bring the Gospel to light. That belongs to each one who bears the name Christian. Like Peter and John, although "ordinary," we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the same Spirit which emboldened the Apostles. It is the same Spirit, which guided them in their speech. And it is the same Spirit that opens our minds and hearts so that we too can spread the good news – if we are willing.

If we let the Lord release the fullness of His Spirit in us, then like the Apostles, we too will be bold and lead others to Christ. But it will have consequences. Some people, our friends, relatives or other acquaintances, might react in the same way the Leaders and Scribes reacted to Jesus and to Peter and John. They might wonder "Who do you think you are? You're no better than anyone else. You're ignorant to believe this and it's all insignificant in the world today anyway."

We may be rejected by people who call themselves our friends. We might be ridiculed by our own kin. God forbid someone should "unfriend us" on Facebook. Stand up anyway! Be strong!

Saint Francis once said that we should preach constantly and if we have to, use words. Well, it's time to use our words. Living a good life is no longer enough. The world needs to hear what God has done for us through His son Jesus Christ. The time for timidity has ended. The Holy Spirit has unchained us. It's time to go forth into the world and proclaim the Good News that Christ is Risen, through Him our sins are forgiven and in Him we shall all share everlasting life.

"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (*Matthew 28:19*)





Sunday Masses continue with limited seating to provide safe social distancing for all in attendance. We remind you: You must **book a seat(s) for the Mass** you want to attend. There are two methods for booking a time. You may only book times for yourself and members of your

household.

On-line booking is found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a45a5a722a4f49-braintree> (regular weekend Mass)

Phone Booking

- Dial 781-843-1332 and Press 3
- Follow recorded instructions
- Provide your Name, Phone#, Church, Mass Time and the total # of household members coming to Mass. Hang up after you are done with your message

The cut-off times for Mass Reservations are as follows:

- 2:00PM Saturday for the Saturday evening Masses
- 10:00PM Saturday for the Sunday morning Masses
- 2:00PM Sunday for the Sunday evening Mass

You are required to wear a mask at all times in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31. You do not have to wear a mask if you have a medical or disabling condition that prevents this. Children under 2 do not require a mask; Children ages 2-5 is up to parental discretion.



St. Francis of Assisi
Jacquelyn Dunn
Sharon Ellsworth

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2020 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-

1332. If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or EFT/online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.

Check out our new collaborative website—www.braintreecatholic.org.

Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** Open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office. If you are aware of needed updates to the board, please let us know that as well. Thank you.



The Braintree Catholic Women's Club has two \$1,000 scholarships available to high school seniors who are graduating this year (2021). One will be awarded to a Braintree High School Senior and the other to a Braintree senior graduating from a Catholic high school. Notices have been sent to all participating schools. Please contact your Guidance Department to request an application regarding these scholarships, or call Mrs. Margaret Hart, Scholarship Chairperson at 781-849-1755. The deadline for applying for these scholarships is April 17, 2021.



We are now booking Mass Intentions through Sunday, June 27, 2021. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332. ***Please do not leave this information on the Mass Reservation line.***



The collaborative office will be closed on Monday, April 19 in observance of Patriot's Day.



From the
Archdiocese of
Boston



Fiat

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. There will be a Panel Discussion on the Various Stages of Formation. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

April 18 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus asks the disciples in today's gospel, and he asks us, "Why are you troubled?" Along with the disciples, you too may be thinking, "Haven't you seen the terrible things that have been happening" over the past year? Jesus responded to his frightened disciples that they were not to stay in the upper room – that place of fear and confusion. Rather Jesus sent his disciples out into the world. Many things have caused discouragement and fear for us - his current day disciples, yet these things give us even more reason to rely on Christ. What holds you back from sharing the good news? Take time this week to reflect on this gospel. How will you be a witness of Christ's saving love?



To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwwmema.org/>.

Like in the gospel today, sometimes our minds need to be opened to know what God has done for us, and what he wants for us in our marriage. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience (in English) on

Mondays/Thursdays May 3-24

Thursdays/Mondays Jun 3-24



April 18, 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

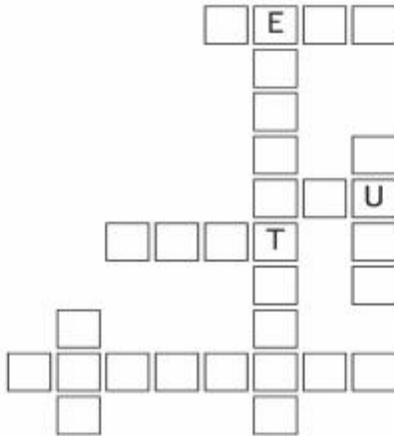
Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

You must tell everything that has happened.



MISSION

Send a letter to the missionaries your church supports. Ask them how your family can help them spread God's love with other people.



PUZZLE

Circle the group in each row that has more. Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

When someone hurts me I will forgive. I will ask God to forgive me if I hurt someone.



Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus came to his friends after Easter, they could hardly believe he was real. Jesus told his friends it was okay to touch him. Jesus had bones. He had muscles. He had scars from the cross. Jesus even ate a piece of fish to show that his stomach worked okay. Yes, they had all seen Jesus die, but God raised him to life. Moses and King David and the prophets had all written about the Savior. The Scriptures all came true through Jesus. He really is alive. If you believe in Jesus, don't keep it a secret. Tell your friends that Jesus is their savior, too.

Prayer

God, give me the words I need. I want everyone I know to follow you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling your friends about Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Send a letter to the missionaries your church supports. Ask them how your family can help them spread God's love with other people.



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